Setting High Expectations for Transition:

Information for Families

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Learning Objectives

• What are “high expectations”
• Secondary transition planning
• Action steps for key transition areas
• Working with service providers
• What’s happening locally?
• Questions
“I’m not a professional. I don’t pretend to be. But I know my son.”
Parent Expectations and Outcomes

- Students with one or more parents who participated in the IEP meetings during 11\textsuperscript{th} and 12\textsuperscript{th} grades were more likely to be engaged in post-school employment.
- Students with parents who had HIGH EXPECTATIONS were more likely to be engaged in postsecondary education and employment.

www.transitionta.org
Longer Runway
Balancing Act

It is often difficult to balance the concepts of **HIGH** and **REALISTIC** expectations.
Processes of Eligibility

Eligibility for needed services, especially in early childhood, rely heavily on parent response

- Skills and tools needed to become eligible, and to maintain eligibility, are very different from those needed for planning
- Parents learn to verbalize their child’s deficits (functional and academic)
Unlearning deficit thinking is an essential first step in setting high expectations for students with disabilities

• Shift from: Explaining and describing the can’t and the won’t

• To: Identifying and celebrating the can and the will
Transition is....

Envisioning what students want to achieve in terms of education, employment, and living and designing opportunities to get them there.

*Texas Secondary Transition/Post-school Results Network*
Transition in the IEP

**IEP team** identifies present levels of strengths, needs, interests

**IEP:** Measurable postsecondary goals

Transition services

Annual goals  Courses of study  Other activities
The Pitfalls: The Enemy of High Expectations

- Assumptions about ability
- One size fits all
- Not addressing strengths, interests, and needs
- Lack of resources
- Not utilizing families
Parent Action Steps

• Know various components of IEP
• Establish vision for your youth
• Help them establish vision for themselves
• Strive to understand assessment data
• Be involved

ACTION!!!
IEP Meeting

- Can be intimidating
- Jargon
- Rushed
- Not ideal time to get work done
- Deficit or strengths based?
Parent Action Steps

• Don’t be intimidated – you are a partner
• Youth should eventually drive the process if able
• Come with questions
• Ask questions
• Seek help if unsure
High Expectations: Employment

- Everybody can work
- Work will look different for every person
- Should be rooted in what youth wants to do with their life
Parent Action Steps

• Set expectation that your youth will work
• Work experiences
• Explore community supports if needed
• Practice selling their passion and skills
• Does IEP include employment goal?
High Expectations: Postsecondary Education

- Many jobs require it
- Opportunities are expanding
- Also good way to explore interest and be a lifelong learner
Parent Action Steps

• Encourage your youth to consider
• Explore assistive technology
• Learn about Disability Student Services
• Make sure it’s a good fit before committing
• Plan for costs
High Expectations: Independent Living

- What does your youth want their adult life to look like?

- Creativity often needed

- Consider all aspects, including social
Parent Action Steps

• Explore housing options
• Explore transportation options
• Financial literacy
• Manage health care
• Explore social and recreation outlets
Working with Service Providers

- They should be serving your child
- Services should be individualized
- Don’t be afraid to ask for a change, but strive to work together
Working with Service Providers (2)

- Learn what they do and don’t do
- Learn what they expect of your youth
- Learn who to call if you have questions or if you have a concern
Opportunities to Be Involved

The parent voice is critical to many state committees:

- Special Education Advisory Panel
- State Rehabilitation Council
- Statewide Independent Living Council
- Local/district committees
Parent to Parent
Resources
Contact Information

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